

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on April 15, 2008. These drawings are approved.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4 and 6-12 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: This invention deals with a corrugated tube including a tube body, wherein the tube body has a communication hole, wherein the communication hole is formed to include a part of each of vertical wall portions each formed between the larger diameter portion and a respective one of the smaller diameter portions disposed respectively on opposite sides of the larger diameter portion in the circumferential direction (claim 1). This invention also deals with an apparatus for perforating a corrugated tube including a tube body of a tubular shape having larger-diameter portions and smaller-diameter portions which are arranged alternately along the same axis, and a longitudinal slit formed along a generating line of the tube body; characterized in that the apparatus comprises: a slit former forming the longitudinal slit in the tube body as the tube body of the corrugated tube is moved along the generating line of the tube body; a tube guide which is provided at a downstream side of the slit former in a moving direction of the tube body of the corrugated tube, and is fitted into the tube body and the slit to support the tube body in such a manner that the tube body is movable in a direction along the generating line; at

least one pair of tube body feeders which are provided at opposite sides of the tube guide in the moving direction of the tube body, and abut against the tube body, supported on the tube guide, from the opposite sides of the tube body in the moving direction, and rotate, thereby moving the tube body along the tube guide; and a perforator forming a plurality of communication holes in predetermined portions of peripheral surface of the tube body which is moved along the tube guide by the tube body feeders (claim 6). This invention also deals with a method of perforating a corrugated tube including a tube body of a tubular shape having larger-diameter portions and smaller-diameter portions which are arranged alternately along the same axis, and a longitudinal slit formed along a generating line of the tube body; characterized in that the method comprises: forming the longitudinal slit in the tube body by a slit former as the tube body of the corrugated tube is moved along the generating line of the tube body; fitting a tube guide into the tube body and the slit to support the tube body in such a manner that the tube body is movable in a direction along the generating line; moving the tube body along the tube guide by at least one pair of tube body feeders provided at opposite sides of the tube body in a moving direction of the tube body; and forming a plurality of communication holes in predetermined portions of a peripheral surface of the tube body by a perforator which is movable in a direction perpendicular to the moving direction of the tube body (claim 11). The above stated claim limitations are not taught or suggested by the prior art of record and therefore the claims have been allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed April 15, 2008 have been fully considered and they are persuasive. Specifically, the applicant argument that "Kawamura doesn't disclose the corrugated tube as currently claimed in claim 1", nor does Maroschak teach or suggest "a tube guide which is provided at a downstream side of the slit former in a moving direction of the tube body of the corrugated tube, and it is fitted into the tube body and the slit to support the tube body in such a manner that the tube body is movable in a direction along the generating line," as recited in claim 6", nor does Maroschak teach or suggest the fitting step recited in claim 11 of" fitting a tube guide into the tube body and the slit to support the tube body in such a manner that the tube body is movable in a direction along the generating line.", is persuasive and therefore the claims have been allowed.

Communication

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William H. Mayo III whose telephone number is (571)-

272-1978. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-6:00 pm (alternate Fridays off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F.F. Gutierrez can be reached on (571) 272-2245 or (571) 272-2800 ext 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William H. Mayo III/

William H. Mayo III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831

WHM III
June 7, 2008